

Message Text

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67

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 BIB-01 /089 W

----- 040411

R 131805Z JUN 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2302

ALL NATO CAPITALS 5349

INFO MOSCOW 2966

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USNATO 3280

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: CONIO - STATE OF WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

STATE FOR EUR AND PA

REF: USNATO 2821

1. INTERESTING DISCUSSION OF STATE OF WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION EMERGED DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL INFORMATION OFFICIALS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS JUNE 12 - 13. WE ARE REPORTING IT SINCE, IN SOME RESPECTS AT LEAST, GENERAL ASSESSMENT DURING MEETING CONFLICTED WITH PREVAILING "CONVENTIONAL WISDOM" ON BOTH SIDES OF ATLANTIC,

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2. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATO INFORMATION STAFF

NOTED THAT POLLING DATA FROM ICELAND, NORWAY, DENMARK, THE FRG AND THE NETHERLANDS SUGGESTED STRONG CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE

CONCEPT OF WESTERN COLLECTIVE SECURITY, IN GENERAL, AND NATO IN PARTICULAR. HE ALSO NOTED WHAT HE CALLED "A SENSE OF SOLIDITY" IN PUBLIC OPINION IN LUXEMBOURG, BELGIUM, UK AND ITALY, AND THE EXPLICIT REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU AT THE RECENT SUMMIT.

3. ENSUEING COMMENTS BY NATIONAL REPS CONFIRMED THIS BASIC TREND IN EACH MAJOR NATO COUNTRY. GENERAL SENSE OF MEETING WAS THAT WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH SEEMED AT LOOSE ENDS DURING EARLY 1970'S, HAD TAKEN SIGNIFICANT TURN FOR BETTER IN RECENT MONTHS, A TURN ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT NATO SUMMIT. COMMENTS FROM POSTS IN NATO CAPITALS WOULD BE WELCOME. (PLEASE REPORT DEPT. FOR EUR AND PA).

4. US REP NOTED THAT, WHILE EUROPEAN ATTENTION TO LOUIS HARRIS POLL CONDUCTED FOR CHICAGO COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS HAD FOCUSED ON FACT THAT ONLY 39 PER CENT OF AMERICAN PUBLIC APPEARED DISPOSED TO USE AMERICAN TROOPS IN DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE, OTHER RESULTS FROM SAME POLL WERE WORTH NOTING:

(A) SEVENTY-ONE PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS CONSIDERED THAT COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF WEST EUROPE WOULD POSE THREAT TO AMERICAN SECURITY.

(B) SIXTY PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS FAVORED EXPANDING OR MAINTAINING PRESENT LEVEL US DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

(C) SIXTY-NINE PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS DID NOT WISH US TO BE MILITARILY INFERIOR TO USSR. US REP ALSO NOTED THAT RESULTS OF HARRIS POLL CONDUCTED IN MAY AND TO BE RELEASED WEEK OF JUNE 16 SUGGESTED GREATER WILLINGNESS ON PART OF AMERICANS TO DEPLOY TROOPS ABROAD. HE STATED US WOULD MAKE RESULTS OF THIS POLL AVAILABLE TO NATO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO03280
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750698/abbrzknv.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 2821
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONIO - STATE OF WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
ALL NATO CAPITALS INFO MOSCOW
MBFR VIENNA
GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

